



IDAHO COUNCIL ON
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

VISIONS & VALUES

Volume 20, Issue 1

Fall 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Council Gets Federal Grant ..	1
Leaders to Watch: Molly Hale .	1
NACDD Conference	2
YLF 2008	3
Inclusion Study	3
Family-Directed Services	4
Region 3 SABE Meeting	4
Employment Assistance	5
Employment Workgroup	5
Medical Consent Law	5
Medicaid Rehab Rules	6
Restoring the ADA	6
20 years of Partners	6
Chair's Editorial	7
New Council Members	8
What's Happening	8

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rick Betzer, Chair, Shelley
James Steed, Vice-Chair, Pocatello
Shiloh Blackburn, Consumer Rep.,
Rexburg
Jim Baugh, Boise
Toni Belknap-Brinegar, Nampa
Dona Butler, Nampa
Leslie Clement, Boise
Debbie DePaola, Lava Hot Springs
Jane Donnellan, Boise
Bill Elvey, Boise
Angie Flores, Chubbuck
Julie Fodor, Moscow
Gioia Frahm, Boise
Jo Lynn Garrison, McCall
Kristyn Herbert, Boise
Bob Jackson, Eagle
Corinne Johnson, Coeur d'Alene
Kim Kane, Boise
Lisa Robbe-Soults, Bonners Ferry
Mike Smith, Moscow
Alonzo Statham, Boise
BUTCH OTTER, GOVERNOR
Marilyn B. Sword, Executive Director

COUNCIL AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT

On October 2, the Council learned that it had been awarded a federal grant from the Centers on Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Council's proposal was one of 18 grants nationally funded in the Real Choice Systems Change Person-Centered Planning category. The grant amount is \$499,435 for three years.

The funds will be used by the Council, in partnership with the Center on Disabilities and Human Development (CDHD) at the University of Idaho, the Idaho Division of Medicaid, and other organizations to make technical assistance and resources on person-centered plan-

ning available to individuals, families and groups across Idaho.

As Idaho moves toward a more consumer-directed service system for people with developmental and other disabilities, person-centered planning increases in importance and value. This type of planning - which is driven by the person with a disability and addresses all aspects of their life - is widely regarded as best practice. Problems have occurred with access to information about how it really should be done, the time needed to do it properly, and how it can be paid for. The CMS grant to the Council will be used, in

(continued on page 2)

Leaders to Watch: Molly Hale

Until now you probably have not heard of Molly Hale but from this point forward you are very likely to hear her name again, and often. This young Pocatello native is beginning to get a lot of notice. Molly is one of 30 members in the Youth Development Project of the Idaho Falls Community Transition Team, a project funded by the Council. Because of her outstanding skills and abilities, Molly educates and mentors younger students about different disabilities and about choices available to them. She and her team members are preparing themselves for leadership roles at the Tools for Life Fair that will be held in Idaho Falls next spring.



Molly works as an office assistant in the Office of the Dean of the College of Education at Idaho State University. Molly answers the telephone, types, copies documents and sorts the incoming mail. One of Molly's personal goals is to learn new job skills so she can become a

(continued on page 2)

COUNCIL PROJECTS

Idaho Council Delegates Go To NACDD Conference

The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) held its annual fall meeting in San Diego this year. Kudos to California Council Director, Alan Kerzin and Chair, Sascha Bittner for an excellent conference. Keynote presentations were offered by disability consultant, Dale DiLeo (author of *Raymond's Room*), Brian Parsons, Senior Policy Advisor for the Bureau of Homeland Security, Sharon Scribner Pearce, consultant to NACDD on public policy issues, and Stephen Bennett, President and CEO of UCP. In addition, participants had 25 workshop presentations to choose from, ranging in topics from post-secondary education options to community organizing to closing institutions. Colleen Weick, Director of the Minnesota DD Council was recognized for her



Attending from Idaho were (from left) Executive Director Marilyn Sword, Council Chair Rick Betzer, Council staff Christine Pisani, and Council Member Dona Butler.

development of Partners in Policymaking and Karen Flippo, CEO of NACDD was honored for her service to the organization. Karen is retiring in December. For more information on NACDD, go to www.nacdd.org or go to the Idaho Council website and click on the link.

PCP Grant *(continued from page 1)*

part, to recruit and train PCP facilitators that will be available across Idaho to help individuals or groups in developing person-centered plans.

Areas of focus for the grant are adults with developmental disabilities living in the community as well as youth with disabilities preparing to transition to adult life. There is also an emphasis on unpaid informal supports that are critical to anyone with a disability living a successful life in the community.

The grant will also provide funds to build resources and information which will be available through independent living centers, Family Support 360 centers and on the web.

Molly Hale *(continued from page 1)*

better employee. She also is taking a bowling class at the university to improve her skills so she can "break 200."

In her spare time Molly knits hats, scarves and baby blankets. She was a featured artist in a recent Pocatello art fest where she sold 100 of her knitted creations. Molly has succeeded so well in Special Olympics competitions that her mother decorated the family Christmas tree with her medals.

One of Molly's most endearing qualities is that of being an enthusiastic self-starter. When presented with ideas she carries them to lengths that are truly amazing. She became interested in Laura Ingles Wilder and *The Little House on the Prairie*. She did internet research and lots of reading and even talked her father into taking her to see the Wilder sod house in Minnesota. Her knitting business was born out of her own desire to learn the skill and earn money. And for one of her mentoring duties, she single handedly created a three-panel display board about different disabilities and used it in an informational presentation to the Idaho State University Student Council on Exceptional Children.

Want to meet Molly? She invites you to send her an e-mail and would love to talk to you about the places she has visited, eating sushi, mastering a ropes course, going to plays, movies and many other things. Contact the Council office and we will hook you up.

COUNCIL PROJECTS

Council Will Host 2008 Youth Leadership Forum

The Council, in collaboration with the Idaho Department of Education, will host the Idaho Youth Leadership Forum June 23-27, 2008 in Boise. Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is a week-long leadership development program for Idaho high school juniors and seniors with disabilities. Student delegates learn about civil rights, self-advocacy, career development, and resources related to assistive technology and community support.

YLF is an opportunity for successful adults with disabilities to serve as role models and help youth to realize their abilities, rights, and responsibilities to be self-advocates, get meaningful employment and contribute to their communities. Before going home, delegates develop personal leadership plans with goals.

What happens at YLF?

- ◆ Delegates stay in dorm rooms at Boise State University.
- ◆ Delegates spend one morning shadowing a career mentor in a job of their interest.
- ◆ Delegates attend various presentations and small group discussions that develop their

leadership and self-advocacy skills.

- ◆ Delegates meet community leaders to talk about their issues of interest.
- ◆ Delegates spend time with new friends playing games and sharing stories and can join a network of past YLF graduates.

There is no cost for delegates. All costs are paid for by the Council and Dept. of Education and through fundraising, sponsored scholarships and corporate donations.

The Council has contracted with Susan Angel to coordinate YLF activities in the coming year. If you have questions please contact Susan via email at: YLF2008@cableone.net or Tracy Warren at the Council office, phone: 208-334-2178, email: twarren@icdd.idaho.gov



Idaho Partner Graduates SAVE THE DATE

The Council is hosting Advanced Partners for Idaho Partner Graduates

June 26-28, 2008 in Boise

Please mark your calendars.

More information will come soon.

Study on Inclusive Education in Idaho Is Underway

Since the implementation of the federal No Child Left Behind Act we have heard reports that fewer students with disabilities are being included in regular classroom settings because of required tests and pressure on schools to show student progress. The Council would also like to know if teachers get the training they need to be able to support students with disabilities to participate in the regular classroom. To find out how Idaho is doing, the Council has contracted with the Center on Disability and Human Development at the U of I to study the current state of inclusive education in Idaho. The purpose of this work is to:

- ◆ Identify barriers to including students with developmental disabilities in regular classrooms

- ◆ Identify resources and ways to change systems to overcome barriers
- ◆ Determine what changes need to be made to teacher and paraprofessional training to help overcome barriers

The inclusion study staff will get information by doing a survey of teacher preparation programs at Idaho colleges and universities, surveying current administrators and teacher attitudes about inclusion, and surveying paraprofessionals and parents of students with disabilities about how well they feel their children are being included in the regular classroom. A final report will be completed with information from the study in September of 2008.

STATE NEWS

Family-Directed Services Task Force

With legislative direction, the Council and the Department of Health and Welfare put together a task force of stakeholders to design and develop a Family-Directed Service system for families of minor children (age 3-18) with developmental disabilities in Idaho. The desired outcomes of the task force work are:

- ♦ Design a model of Medicaid services for minor-age children with developmental disabilities that is:
 - ✓ Flexible and family-directed
 - ✓ Based on the child's needs
 - ✓ Efficient and effective, costing no more on average than current comparable services
 - ✓ Aligned with self-directed services for adults with developmental disabilities

- ♦ Encourage the participation of families as partners in policymaking regarding services to their children

During this year the task force has been meeting to develop the model. Family-directed services are based on the concepts of self-direction. This means that parents would have more choice, control and flexibility in using an individualized budget to get the services their child needs.

In order to better design a program that will work well for families, focus groups will be held during November to get family input on the proposed model. A report will be provided to the legislature early in 2008 and Medicaid will continue to work with stakeholders to set up the system needed to begin the program.

Region 3 SABE and Neighbors Meeting

A big thank you to Utah People First and the Utah DD Council for inviting members of The Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) to the Region 3 Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) meeting in Park City this past August!

John Russell and Jeremy Watson, Board Members of SALN, as well as staff from Co-Ad, the Center on Disabilities and Human Development, and the DD Council attended the meeting to support the Idaho self-advocacy movement and the national organization.

Idahoans joined self-advocates and support staff from Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Colorado. People spent time learning from each about what is working well in their own states and how they make it happen. A lot of time was spent talking about how to better share information between SABE and state self-advocacy groups.



The meeting was hosted at the National Abilities Center where horseback riding, hiking, a rock climbing wall, and many team building exercises were provided by staff from the Center. Trust, respect, and good support were the three most important points self-advocates brought up when talking about good teamwork.

Members from Idaho learned a lot about each other and what they want for self-advocacy in Idaho. They also learned so much from self-advocates in neighboring states.

"Teamwork is valuable and it takes more than one person to make self-advocacy happen." Jeremy Watson, Idaho SALN Board Member.



STATE NEWS

Employment Assistance from Co-Ad

People who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability (SSDI) and need help getting a job or returning to work now have another resource. The Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program run by Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc. (Co-Ad), has been helping Idaho citizens for over a year.

Many people know Co-Ad as the agency that helps protect the rights of people with disabilities. The PABSS program's purpose is to protect the rights of individuals to get or keep a job. The program is funded by a grant from the Social Security Administration. PABSS staff provide individual help and have been sharing information at conferences.

PABSS specialists are experts about federal work incentives that are available but not used by very many. For example, people who need certain types of help or equipment that enable them to work may be eligible to receive assistance through Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE). Students under the age of 22 may qualify for Student Earned Income Exclusion if they are in grades 7-12 for at least 12 hours each week or if they are attending a college or university for 8 hours a week.

More than 20 work incentive opportunities, including the Plan to Achieve Self Sufficiency (PASS), are available to individuals with disabilities who want to earn an income. The PABSS program is ready to spread the word and provide assistance. Co-Ad has offices in Moscow, Boise and Pocatello and may be contacted toll-free at 1-866-262-3462.

New Employment Work Group

Earlier this year, the Idaho ADA Task Force formed a group aimed at tackling employment barriers for people with disabilities. Employment Resources for People with Disabilities (ERID) is comprised of 22 individuals representing 17 state and private employment and/or disability related agencies. Funding for this group comes from the regional Disability Business and Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC) in Seattle. The grant requires that ERID and other state committees educate employers about the ADA and about hiring people with disabilities. The Idaho group is also addressing attitude and policy barriers as well as employer myths and misperceptions.

One of the action items is to study the possibility of creating a Business Leadership Network (BLN) chapter in Boise. BLN is a business-to-business approach that seeks to educate, promote and include people with disabilities in the workforce. This fits with the Council's 2008 workplan which includes an activity to research the feasibility of establishing an Idaho BLN.

Besides the ADA Task Force and the DD Council, members include: Department of Labor; Vocational Rehabilitation; State Independent Living Council; Health and Welfare; Human Rights Commission; Commission on Aging; Internal Revenue Service; Easter Seals Goodwill; Community Partnerships; Assistive Technology Project, U of I; Living Independent Network Corporation; Co-Ad; Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired; and Disability Action Center. For more information on ERID, contact Bobby Ball at the ADA Task Force at (208) 344-5590.

Idaho's Medical Consent Law

In response to concerns about people with disabilities, particularly communication difficulties or cognitive disabilities, being denied access to medical care or possibly not fully understanding prescribed treatment, Co-Ad and the Council are working together on possible changes to Idaho's Medical Consent and Natural Death Act.

Some of the changes being considered would simplify language regarding who can consent for their own care and how that consent should be obtained. Currently, when a person with a disability needs a medical procedure, it may be difficult for the person to understand the procedure or give their own consent, even if they are their own guardian. Updates on this issue will be posted on the DD Council website at www.icdd.idaho.gov.

NATIONAL NEWS

Proposed Medicaid Rules for Rehabilitation Services

In August, the federal Centers on Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued proposed rules governing coverage of rehabilitation services. The proposed changes add definitions regarding who may prescribe rehabilitation services, what is needed to do that, and what services are covered under "rehabilitation services." The focus is on medical services that treat a condition with the goal of restoring the person's functional abilities. Services provided through other non-medical programs like foster care, vocational and prevocational training are not included. Also not included as Medicaid reimbursable are habilitation services (such as developmental therapy) and recreational or social activities that are not focused on rehabilitation and not provided by a Medicaid provider (such as transportation, PCS, or vocational services). These changes would have a significant, negative impact on services for people with developmental disabilities. They are also different from what Medicaid has allowed in the past and in conflict with requirements in other programs. National advocacy organizations have spoken out against these changes and are working to prevent them, as proposed, from going into effect. *(Thanks to Sarah Soners with the National Health Law Program, for the information in this article)*

Restoring the ADA

Since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990, a number of court decisions have weakened the protections that the law was put in place to provide. Many of these court cases dealt with the employment of people with disabilities, making it easier to discriminate against people with disabilities in hiring practices. With these rulings, the courts have created a catch-22 by allowing employers to say a person is "too disabled" to do the job but not "disabled enough" to be protected by the law. People with conditions like epilepsy, diabetes, HIV, cancer, hearing loss and mental illness, who manage their disabilities with medication or prosthetics ("mitigating mea-

asures") are viewed as "too functional" to be considered as having a disability and are denied the ADA's protection from employment discrimination.

In response, Members of Congress, with the support of disability advocates, have proposed legislation to restore these rights. H.R. 3195, the ADA Restoration Act of 2007, amends the definition of "disability" so that people who Congress originally intended to protect from discrimination are covered under the ADA. To do this, the bill eliminates the "substantial limitation" on a "major life activity." It defines terms such as physical impairment or mental impairment and places limits on consideration of mitigating measures. The bill also makes disability a personal characteristic (such as race, etc.) instead of making it a condition that must be proven. This makes it consistent with other civil rights legislation.

A similar bill in the Senate (S 1881), sponsored by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) has also been introduced. None of Idaho's congressmen have signed on in support of either bill.

Partners in Policymaking Celebrates 20 Years!

On May 1, 1987 the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, under the direction of Colleen Wieck, provided Partners in Policymaking® to 35 Minnesotans with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities.

Since 1987, the Partners in Policymaking® program has been used to give parents and adults with developmental disabilities information, opportunities for skill development, and connections to make positive change. There are over 15,000 graduates in the U.S. with a growing national and international network of community leaders serving on policy making committees, commissions, and boards at all levels of government.

Much of the Partners curriculum is now available on-line. The on-line material may be used as a refresher of the material, introduction to the course, or used in combination with face-to-face training. To view the on-line materials go to: <http://www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/>

EDITORIALS



*Rick Betzer,
Chairperson*

National Adoption Month

I am writing this from Washington, D.C. where my wife, Tina, and I attended an event recognizing 186 people from across the country for their work in adoption and/or foster care. We were honored and humbled to be among them, having been nominated by Senator Crapo for our family's effort in fostering over 40 children and adopting 11 children with 'special needs'.

Nation wide there are 500,000 children in the foster care system. Approximately 140,000 of these children are waiting for adoptive homes. A majority of these will never get to that point; they will be emancipated from foster care at the age of 18. Without a family of their own they will face an uncertain, troubled future. On their own, without the guidance and support of a loving family. Without a home to come home to. Included are many

children with disabilities. Some are considered un-adoptable because their disabilities are too extensive. Some of these may be the result of pre-mature birth due to a mother's drug use, traumatic brain injuries from Shaken Baby Syndrome, or of unknown causes. Whatever the situation, these children are too often left in a system of care where they may never know the joys of living in a family, where they are moved from home to home or raised in a treatment home or long term facility. This is happening all across the nation.

My wife and I are honored to be the parents of 11 of these children and hope to continue to provide a family and home for others. Raising our children is a joy! Yes, we are faced with many challenges: working with the school system; making medical decisions; living a life full of doctors, therapists, special education meetings; making room for wheelchairs, standers

and all the other equipment needed to make their lives more comfortable, achieve all they are capable of, and give them every opportunity to live a life full of joy and disability community, whether living with a disability, with a family member with a disability, or who really care about the person you are providing services to, know well of the challenges we face day to day. But this I know is true: we are living the good life, a life full of joy, smiles, and accomplishments. Sure there are setbacks, but these serve as reminders to live life and appreciate our daily successes.

October is National Disability Awareness month. November is National Adoption month. Why not combine the two and look into fostering or adopting a very special child. A child born with the right to have a family, a place to call home, no matter what challenges they face. Better yet, let's make this a country where no one is viewed as un-adoptable, unwanted, or different. Year-round; everyday. Period.

The Angels in Adoption Program is sponsored by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. This public awareness program provides an opportunity for Members of Congress to honor their constituents who have enriched the lives of foster children and children awaiting adoption. Each year, the program honors individuals who have made an impact nationally as well as those from all 50 states whose impact may be felt closer to home. National celebrities honored this year include entertainer Patti LaBelle and pro basketball player Alonzo Mourning. Idaho DD Council Chair Rick Betzer and his wife, Tina, were Idaho's recipients. Nominated by Senator Mike Crapo, the Betzers, with an absence of fanfare, provide a loving home in Shelley, Idaho, to 11 children with disabilities.

Angels in Adoption



New Council Members Appointed

The Council is pleased to welcome our new Council members appointed by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter. New members are Toni Belknap-Brinegar - Nampa, Jo Lynn Garrison - McCall, Alonzo Statham - Boise, Angie Flores - Chubbuck, Lisa Robbe-Soults - Bonners Ferry, Bill Elvey - Boise and Gioia Frahm - Boise. Bob Jackson - Eagle was reappointed for another term. The Council also appreciates the dedication of Theresa Wilding, Liz Ricciardi, Penny Larson, Mary Johnson, and Donna Denney for their service on the Council.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

NOVEMBER 2007

- 22 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 28-29 Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting

DECEMBER 2007

- 1 Idaho United Cerebral Palsy Open House
- 3-4 Family-Directed Services Task Force
- 6-7 Idaho SALN Board Meeting
- 7 Interagency Council on Secondary Transition
- 7 Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- 25 Merry Christmas

JANUARY 2008

- 7 Idaho Legislature Convenes
- 8 Interagency Workgroup on Public Transportation
- 11 Interagency Council on Secondary Transition
- 24 DD Network Legislative Reception
- 24-25 DD Council Meeting

Coming in MARCH 2008

Tools for Life: Secondary Transition and Technology Fair, March 3-4 in Idaho Falls. For information go to:
<http://www.idahoat.org/index.htm>

For updates on issues and more information about Council projects visit our website at:
www.icdd.idaho.gov

To contact the DD Council: Phone: (208) 334-2178, Fax: (208) 334-3417, Email: icdd@icdd.idaho.gov

Costs associated with this publication are available from Dept. of Health & Welfare, DD Council in accordance with §60-202, Idaho Code: 21800C08 92264 5,000 @.28 11/07

PRSRST STR
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 BOISE, IDAHO
 PERMIT NO. 37